

Message Text

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ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 AEC-11 AECE-00 ACDA-19 OMB-01 H-02

NSC-10 SS-15 OIC-04 RSR-01 /155 W

----- 065059

R 151002 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5033

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

USDEL SALT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 6912

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL, HELSINKI FOR MPT DEL

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM EEC, IT

SUBJECT: MBFR AND EUROPEAN SECURITY: ROLE OF EC

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

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REF: A. BONN 6465; B. BONN A-300

1. AMB ROTH TOLD EMBOFF MAY 14 THAT ITALIANS PRESENTED MBFR PAPER (REFS) TO POLITICAL COMMITTEE AT PROMPTING OF BRITISH. SINCE PRESIDENT' S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT AND KISSINGER AP SPEECH HAD STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVEMENTS IN EUROPEAN FORCES, ISSUE AROSE AS TO MOST SUITABLE FORUM FOR CONSIDERATION OF THIS AND RELATED ASPECTS OF MBFR. GIVEN FRENCH NON- PARTICIPATION IN BOTH EUROGROUP (AND IN VIENNA MBFR TALKS), AND LIMITED SIX STATE MEMBERSHIP OF WEU, IT WAS THOUGHT THAT SOME PRAGMATIC USES COULD BE MADE OF EC- NINE POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

2. WHILE, ACCORDING TO ROTH, THE BRITISH AND SOME OTHERS WISH THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO BE THE MAIN FORUM FOR SUCH A DISCUSSION OF " EUROPEAN FORCES", IN CONTEXT OF BOTH FORCE IMPROVEMENTS AND OF MBFR, ROTH SAID THE GERMANS BELIEVE THIS FORUM " SHOULD NOT BE SEIZED TOO EARLY WITH SECURITY ISSUES". ROTH SAID FRG HAS THE MORE LIMITED AIM OF USING EC POLITICAL COOPERATION SO THAT MINISTERS COULD PROVIDE A POLITICAL IMPULSE TO CONSIDERATION BY THE EUROGROUP (INCLUDING FRENCH) OF THESE ISSUES. IN EFFECT, THE GERMANS WISH TO USE THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE " TO RE- INVIGORATE THE EUROGROUP" AND TO BRING THE FRENCH INTO THE BUSINESS OF EUROPEAN CONSULTATIONS ON SECURITY AND DEFENSE ISSUES.

3. ROTH SAID THESE TOPICS ARE LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE EC- NINE POLITICAL DIRECTORS AT THEIR MAY 24-25 MEETING.

HILLENBRAND

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN06912
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS HILLENBRAND
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730543/aaaajdvd.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BONN 6465, 73 BONN A-300
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <10-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980211
Subject: MBFR AND EUROPEAN SECURITY: ROLE OF EC POLITICAL COMMITTEE
TAGS: PARM, GE, EEC
To: PM
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005